



Cellar Mountain Fire WILDFIRE UPDATE

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/gwj/alerts-notice>
<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4672/>

Fire Information: 540-492-1901
Ted Coffman and Rebecca Robbins,
Public Information Officers

*USDA Forest Service
George Washington & Jefferson
National Forests
Glenwood and Pedlar
Ranger Districts*

**Monday, March 21, 2016
1:00 PM**

Current Status	The Cellar Mountain Fire is located on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests within Saint Mary's Wilderness in Augusta County, VA approximately 10 miles east of the town of Raphine, and west of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Firefighters continue to improve containment lines around the fire perimeter.
Counties	Augusta County, VA
Estimated Acreage	Approximately 870 acres
Containment	The fire is approximately 50% contained.
Cause and Date Started	The cause of this fire is under investigation. The fire was first reported at approximately 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 17, 2016.
Resources on the Fire	62 firefighters including two Hotshot handcrews, one handcrew, and one wildland engine
Cooperators	Augusta County Fire-Rescue, Virginia Department of Forestry, and National Park Service - Blue Ridge Parkway
Restrictions and Closures	Use caution and obey all road and trail closures for your safety. Sections of the Coal Road (Forest Road #42) are temporarily closed both due to ongoing road work and fire activities. Saint Mary's Road (FR #41) is temporarily closed. All trails within Saint Mary's Wilderness are temporarily closed, including: St. Mary's Trail (Forest Trail #500); St. Mary's Gorge Trail (FT #500B); Mine Bank Creek Trail (FT #500C); Mine Bank Mountain Trail (FT #503); Bald Mountain Overlook Trail (FT #504). Also closed are trailheads associated with these trails including: Lower St. Mary's trailhead at end of St. Mary's Road; Cellar Mountain trailhead on Coal Road (FR# 42); and Mine Bank trailhead at Blue Ridge Parkway.
Plans for Today	Firefighters will continue to monitor the fire and establish and improve containment lines using existing trails and natural features.
Fire weather	Today temperatures will increase to a high near 43 under sunny skies and with northwest winds at eight to 13 mph. Minimum Relative Humidity is 39%. Tonight's expected low temperature is 31.
Other Fire Information	The top priority of fire managers is firefighter and public safety. Driving visibility may be limited in the fire vicinity due to smoky conditions. Area residents and visitors may smell smoke for several days.